Message

From: Bender, Emily [Bender.Emily@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/7/2018 3:45:37 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Gutro, Doug [Gutro.Doug@epa.gov]; Szaro, Deb [Szaro.Deb@epa.gov]; Melanson, Kate [Melanson.Kate@epa.gov]; Dixon, Sean [dixon.sean@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: For my hearing prep - on R1 lead and chemical reduction achievements
Attachments: background for Alex.docx

Hi Alex-

Kate an I pulled together the background you asked for.

Thanks so much

Emily

Chemicals

Stavis Seafoods (MA)

- Boston seafood distributer paid a cash penalty for $700k settling allegations by EPA and DOJ that the company violated federal environmental laws relating to the use of anhydrous ammonia, sulfuric acid, and lead at its facility in Boston's Seaport District. An employee died there during an accidental ammonia release in 2016.
- Many of the violations relate to a March 23, 2016 incident in which more than 2,100 pounds of anhydrous ammonia was released from the refrigeration system at Stavis's Boston facility, which was located in a densely populated neighborhood.
- In addition to the death of one of the company's employees, during the release, streets were shut down and sheltering in place was ordered for several hours.
- While it has many operational and environmental benefits as a refrigerant, anhydrous ammonia is an extremely hazardous chemical that is corrosive to skin, eyes, and lungs, can be immediately dangerous to life and health, and under limited conditions, is flammable and explosive.
- The alleged violations also included Stavis's failure to comply with the "general duty clause" of the Clean Air Act, under which facilities using hazardous chemicals must identify hazards, design and maintain the facility in a safe manner by taking action to prevent accidental releases, and take steps to minimize the consequences of any accidental releases that do occur. Other violations alleged in the Complaint include the failure to notify national emergency response authorities about the ammonia release and failure to submit hazardous chemical inventory forms to state and local emergency response agencies.
- Following the release, Stavis removed the remaining ammonia from the facility in accordance with a compliance order issued by EPA. No injunctive relief was required since the facility is no longer in operation. Stavis fully cooperated with EPA throughout the enforcement process.

Ellison Technologies (VT)

- Ellison Holdings is the owner of the Ellison Surface Technologies facility in North Clarendon, Vt. The Vt. Facility violated state and federal RCRA hazardous waste laws and agreed to settle the claims with a $77,093 penalty.
- EPA inspectors found that the Ellison Surface Technologies Vermont facility was storing numerous drums of hazardous waste for more than 180 days without a license.
- EPA also found that they were storing incompatible hazardous waste without segregating them. These sorts of violations are important to the health and safety of facility workers and the local community because this sort of storage could result in hazardous waste being released into the environment.
- This settlement will reduce the likelihood of a release of hazardous waste to the surrounding North Clarendon community.

- The company, headquartered in Mason, Ohio, makes coatings for industrial and aerospace parts. Ellison operates another facility in Vermont, as well as facilities in Kentucky, Tennessee, Canada and Mexico. The North Clarendon facility is a small quantity generator of hazardous waste, including hydrochloric and nitric acid, sludge from the acetone filtration process and universal wastes including batteries and light bulbs.

Toxics is easy as 1-2-3 Healthy Community Grant

- Nashua Regional Planning Commission ($24,967)
- The Nashua Regional Planning Commission's toxics project will educate parents and caregivers about the risk that household hazardous products pose to children and ways to reduce the chances of exposures and poisonings.
- The project will provide education, outreach, training and assistance in English and Spanish on approaches to reducing toxics in indoors.
- In addition, the project will teach consumers about safer alternatives, and support safe disposal of household hazardous waste.
- The campaign will be designed with local, community input and be used throughout the target geographic are through a range of techniques including trainings, posters, flyers, and other approaches. Project partners include: City of Nashua Public Health & Community Services Department, Healthy Homes Program.

PFAS workshop

- Held first ever per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) community engagement event in Exeter, NH.
- It was a two-day event that brought together key New England stakeholders, regulatory partners and community members together. It was the first of its kind opportunity for EPA to hear directly from New England communities about how to best address PFAS.
- On evening 1, EPA held a listening session with more than 200 participants. Dozens of people voiced their concerns and experiences including members from six community groups.

Lead

Seacoast initiative (ME & NH)

- In the spring and summer of FY'18, EPA focused part of its lead-based paint outreach, compliance monitoring and enforcement activities in the New Hampshire and Maine Seacoast areas.
- With this initiative, EPA aimed to reduce lead exposures through increased awareness of and improve compliance with the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule issued under the authority of the Toxic Substances Control Act. While in these cities, EPA also assessed compliance with the federal Disclosure Rule where applicable and provided educational information about lead in drinking water.
- In the Seacoast Area of Portsmouth, NH and Portland, ME (2017-2018), EPA sent out a pre-inspection mailing to approximately 424 regulated entities (167 in Portsmouth, NH and 257 in Portland, ME including information on lead in drinking water)
- Between 12/1/16 – 9/28/18 we saw an increased number of certified Firms in the geographic area by 168 in New Hampshire and 118 in Maine (these are significantly higher than in previous initiatives because it's over 2 years and covers a larger area)
- Between 12/1/16 – 9/28/18 we saw an increased number of certified Renovators in the geographic area by 711 in New Hampshire and 445 in Maine (these are significantly higher than in previous initiatives because it's over 2 years and covers a larger area)
- Completed 59 inspections (52 RRP and 7 Disclosure Rule)
- To date: 3 formal enforcement actions ($200 each because they are small businesses), 2 formal enforcement actions pending (enforcement confidential); 5 informal enforcement actions; 3 no action; 46 actions pending
- Of the 59 inspections conducted, here are the results to date:
    - Formal penalty actions completed 3
    - Formal penalty actions pending 2

- Informal actions completed 5
- No action needed 3
- Still to be determined 46
- Total 59

Soil Shop (RI)

- A SoilSHOP (soil screening, health, outreach and partnership) is a community health educational event where people can learn more about potential lead contamination in their soil and how to prevent or reduce exposures.
- In April 2018, the Region 1 EPA/ATSDR SoilSHOP team conducted their fourth annual event in a Providence, RI neighborhood with a long industrial history and many active brownfield projects.
- Community engagement and planning started in February 2018 with City of Providence, the Childhood Lead Action Project, Groundwork Rhode Island and the Southside Community Land Trust. A series of Urban Ag "kick-off" events were selected for pre-SoilSHOP outreach.
- Community members were encouraged to collect a sample of soil from their home or neighborhood and bring it to the SoilSHOP event to be screened for lead by the EPA Mobile Lab Unit using a XRF that estimates the amount of lead in soil.
- 45 samples were processed and many more community members engaged. Feedback from the community and our partners was extremely positive. Participants had an opportunity to talk with health and environmental partners about their results, and were offered additional information ways to reduce lead exposure around the home and neighborhood, how to get additional soil testing done, and where to go to get tested if you are concerned about lead exposure

Collab w/ MA DEP on reducing lead in drinking water

- Continuing to work with the New England State Drinking Water Programs to track public water systems over the lead action levels, and document historical exceedances. Technical assistance provided to states on specific cases including Malden MA, and Medford MA. {Note: Last NE state updates showed > 99% of public water supply systems meeting the lead action level];
- ~ To build technical capacity, EPA R1 provided Lead in Drinking Water Rule Implementation and Corrosion Control Training in each of four MA DEP regions, teaching more than 180 state drinking water managers and staff.
- ~ EPA R1 continuing to work closely with MA DEP on changes in lead in drinking water sampling protocols, national lead priorities, and need for expedited public notification by public water supply systems and schools.
  - {Note: MA DEP mentioned in GAO report for their proactive survey of status of lead line inventories conducted by public water supply systems].
- ~ EPA R1 provided financial and technical support to the Massachusetts Assistance for Lead in School Drinking Water Testing Program, including State Revolving Loan Funds, and review and comment on guidance produced by MA DEP.
  {Note: The Massachusetts Assistance for Lead in School Drinking Water Testing Program received EPA R1 Environmental Merit Award].

Partnership w medical community (pediatric environmental health centers)

- EPA New England works collaboratively with clinical staff at the New England Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at Boston Children's Hospital to provide education for parents and care givers toward preventing childhood lead exposure.
- This includes promoting testing of children's blood lead level by their physicians as well as monitoring of children with developmental disorders and providing outreach about additional lead-safe preventative measures and adequate dietary sources of iron, calcium, vitamin, D, and magnesium in children's diets.
- Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit clinical staff are scheduled to meet with EPA New England senior leadership and program leads in November to plan further collaborative efforts to reduce environmental health threats to children, improve access to expertise in pediatric environmental medicine, and strengthen public health prevention capacity.

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Subject: For my hearing prep - on R1 lead and chemical reduction achievements

Can I get by COB Wednesday bullets on lead accomplishments and chemical reduction actions and enforcement during 2018 - 4 bullets on each? For Murder Board Thursday. I'm thinking these are good ones-

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Stavis Seafoods (MA)
Ellison Technologies (VT)
Toxics 1-2-3 Healtjy Community Grant
PFAS workshop

Lead
Seacoast initiative (ME & NH)
Soil Shop (RI)
Collab w MA DEP on reducing lead in drinking water
Partnership w medical community (pediatric environmental health center)

Sent from my iPhone

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